

# Peer Review



**Peer Review for 2002  
Fiscal Year 2002 Project Proposal**

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**Background:**

A Peer Review Panel was established in 1997 to assist the SJRIP with reports and plans for future studies. Scientists on that panel included:

Dr. Clark Hubbs - Fishery ecologist and professor emeritus from the University of Texas. Clark served on the Peer Review Panel for the Grand Canyon Environmental Studies.

Dr. David Galat - Fishery Ecologist with the National Biological Survey and Missouri Cooperative Fishery Unit who is working on native fishes and instream flow issues on the Missouri River.

Dr. Ellen Wohl - Associate Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at Colorado State University. Ellen has been involved with peer review of Upper Colorado River Basin projects and has expertise in geomorphology and sediment transport.

Dr. Ron Ryel - Biostatistician and ecologist with experience in population modeling. Ron has been involved with endangered fish issues in the Grand Canyon and the Upper Colorado River Basin.

The four members of the panel participated in meetings in 1997 where the flow recommendations were discussed, and continued involvement in the flow recommendation report process by commenting on the pre-draft report and attending a Biology Committee meeting to discuss the pre-draft report in 1998. They also met with the Biology Committee in 1999 to discuss the draft flow recommendation report that the Biology Committee sent to the Coordination Committee for review. In addition, in 1999 the Peer Review Panel reviewed the draft Monitoring Plan, and initial drafts of the final research reports.

In 2000 and 2001, the Peer Review Panel reviewed and commented on the final research reports, the long term monitoring plan, and the Program Evaluation Report.

In 2002, the Peer Review Panel will be extensively involved in assisting the Biology Committee prepare a summary report of the first three years of monitoring. This will require both meeting with the Biology Committee several times and meeting with subgroups of the Biology Committee that are working on specific portions of the report.

This proposal provides for funding for the Peer Review Panel activities during 2002.

**Goal:**

The goal of peer review is to provide additional scientific oversight over San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program technical studies and reporting. The Peer Review Panel will work with the Biology Committee to produce scientific credible documents and will assist the Biology Committee in maintaining a highly scientific direction to the Program.

**Methods:**

The Peer Review Panel will meet with the Biology Committee in 2002 two or three times as the monitoring report is discussed. Individual Peer Reviewers will work with Biology Committee subcommittees that will be responsible for putting sections of the monitoring report together. This may require some writing of portions of the report, but most of the writing will be completed by the Biology Committee. They will also review other Program reports when they are in draft and final form, including the Long Range Plan and some research reports, such as the final bioenergetics model.

Their reviews will be provided to the Biology Committee through Dr. Paul Holden in letter form, and through discussions at the Biology Committee meetings. Biology Committee researchers may call Peer Review Panel members to ask for advice, and Peer Review Panel members may call Biology Committee researchers if they have questions concerning Program activities. All correspondence between the Biology Committee and the Peer Review Panel will be coordinated through Dr. Paul Holden, who will maintain a record of these coordination activities for the Program. Additional Peer Review Panel members may be added if a particular expertise is needed by the Biology Committee.

During 2002 it is proposed to change the Peer Review Panel membership to obtain expertise needed to review and assist with the three year monitoring report. This will take a larger time commitment than used in the past. Existing Peer Review Panel members that are being asked to assist in 2002 are Drs. Ron Ryel and Dr. David Galat. Dr. Ryel has the time to commit to an extended Peer Review presence. Dr. Galat will contribute by attending up to three Biology Committee meetings but will not have the time to work more closely with the subcommittees. It is proposed that a river hydrologist/geomorphologist familiar with cobble bedded streams and Colorado River fish habitat be added to the Panel. It is also proposed that an addition fishery ecologist also be added to the Panel. The Biology Committee will request names of potential peer review candidates and make a decision on new panel members at their September meeting in 2001.

**Products:**

Peer review participation at 3 Biology Committee meeting and additional subcommittee meetings, letter reports from each peer reviewer.

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**Personnel:**

Additional river geomorphologist

Dr. David Galat  
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Additional Fishery Ecologist

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**Budget FY-02:**

Payment for serving on the Peer Review Panel includes expenses for travel to and from meetings, and an hourly rate for services. It is anticipated that Dr. Ryel will spend approximately 20-25 days, and the geomorphologist and fishery ecologist will spend approximately 15- 20 days each.

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|-----------|----|--------|
| Salaries: | \$ | 32,000 |
| Travel:   | \$ | 8,000  |
| Total     | \$ | 40,000 |

Funds remaining from 2001 are \$8,000.

**Total new Budget: \$32,000**

Future use of the Peer Review Panel is not known but they likely will be used again in 2004 when the 5 year monitoring report is completed.